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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, OECD

SUBJECT: IEA R&D SUBGROUP MEETING - 16 OCTOBER 1975

1. SUBJECT MEETING TOOK PLACE PARIS UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP SCHMIDT-KUESTER (FRG). AFTER APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SECRETARIAT DESCRIBED WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES NOTING THAT ALL 5 COAL WORKING GROUP IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS (MINING TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE, COAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT, TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE, ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT SERVICE AND FLUID COMBUSTION EXPERIMENTAL RIG) LIKELY TO BE READY FOR SIGNING AT NOVEMBER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING.

2. OECD SECRETARIAT GAVE INTERIM REPORT ON FRG PROPOSAL TABLED LAST MEETING THAT SUBGROUP CONSIDER STUDY OF CLIMATOLOGICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ENERGY PRODUCTION. CONTACTS WITH WMO, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OECD AND OTHER EXPERT ORGANIZATIONS INDICATE NO OBVIOUS, HIGH PRIORITY PROBLEM ALTHOUGH LONG-TERM RESEARCH, ALREADY UNDERWAY IN OTHER BODIES, OBVIOUSLY JUSTIFIED.

3. CHAIRMAN DISCUSSED FUTURE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES R&D SUBGROUP SUGGESTING THAT FIRST TASK MIGHT BE REVIEW OF BACK-END OF FUEL CYCLE INCLUDING MARKET FOR REPROCESSING SERVICES. HAUSMANN (NEA) NOTED NUMEROUS STUDIES PROJECTED BY NEA FOR THIS TOPIC AND INDICATED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE DUPLICATION. HAUSMANN ALSO DESCRIBED RECENT NEA/IAEA/IEA SPONSORED MEETING ON URANIUM EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGY ADDING THAT PROPOSALS ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO STEERING COMMITTEE NEA.

4. CHAIRMAN SAID IN VIEW OF APPARENT EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES NEA IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO SUBGROUP HE WOULD AWAIT DETAILED INFO ON NATURE AND EXTENT THESE ACTIVITIES BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE FULL SCOPE OF SUBGROUP NUCLEAR PROGRAM. US REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT NEA/IAEA RESOURCES WOULD PERMIT PROGRAM OF SIZE AND DEPTH ENVISAGED IN NEA STATEMENT. NEA REPRESENTATIVE AGAIN NOTED THAT CURRENT AND PROJECTED NEA ACTIVITIES SPANNED ITEMS OF INTEREST TO IEA AND THAT FUEL CYCLE MATTERS WOULD BE CONSIDERED OF HIGHEST PRIORITY IN SCHEDULING FUTURE NEA STUDIES. THE UK DELEGATE EMPHASIZED THE COMPLICATED

NATURE OF THE BACK-END FUEL CYCLE PROBLEM AND STRESSED THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF POLICY DECISIONS IN THIS AREA. HE INDICATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE SUBGROUP ROLE MARKING THE TRANSITION BETWEEN NEA COLLECTED DATA AND INDUSTRY PROVISION OF REPROCESSING SERVICES. SLT WILL BE INFORMED THAT SUBGROUP IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING ANALYSIS OF ITS FUTURE ROLE IN AREA. CHAIRMAN WILL FORM POLICY-ORIENTED GROUP USING FRG AS LEAD COUNTRY TO DO THIS, WORKING WITH NEA ON DATA COLLECTION.

5. P. KELLY OF IEA SECRETARIAT INFORMED SUBGROUP OF NEED TO COORDINATE R&D ACTIVITIES WITH REMAINDER IEA LONG-TERM PROGRAM AND INITIATIVES. IN VIEW OF IEP COMMITMENT TO ADOPT LONG-TERM PROGRAM BY 1 DECEMBER, GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON R&D SET TO BEGIN 3:00 P.M., 20 NOVEMBER EXTENDING INTO 21 NOVEMBER. GOVERNING BOARD ALSO SUGGESTED SIMILAR MEETING IN 1976.

6. PROPOSALS FOR GB MEETING ON R&D SO FAR RECEIVED ONLY FROM U.S., UK AND SWITZERLAND. THE SWEDISH DELEGATE NOTED THAT LACK OF SUGGESTIONS FROM HIS COUNTRY REFLECTED SATISFACTION WITH EFFORT SO FAR, ESPECIALLY PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY R&D STRATEGY ANALYSIS.

7. U.S. DELEGATE IN TABLING PAPER DETAILING APPROACH TO PERFORMING SUCH ANALYSIS STRESSED THAT EFFORT SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE ENERGY R&D POLICIES FOR OTHER COUNTRIES BUT ONLY AS THE COLLECTION OF DATA, UTILIZATION OF METHODOLOGIES AND PERFORMANCE OF ANALYSIS REQUIRED BY COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP SUCH POLICIES FOR THEMSELVES. MAKING THIS A JOINT EFFORT WITHIN IEA WOULD HELP IDENTIFY AREAS FOR COOPERATION. PROPOSED EFFORT TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARRIED OUT BY TWO GROUPS OF EXPERTS: ONE AT JULICH, GERMANY AND OTHER AT BROOKHAVEN (U.S.) UNDER GUIDANCE OF HIGH-LEVEL STEERING COMMITTEE. U.S. PROPOSAL RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS.

8. EC DELEGATE STRESSED INDIVIDUAL NATURE OF NATIONAL ENERGY SITUATIONS & POLICIES AND REQUIREMENT THAT R&D STRATEGY ACCOMMODATE TO SUCH DIFFERENCES.

9. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT THAT R&D WITH ITS LONG LEAD TIMES SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW DAY-TO-DAY POLICY CHANGES AND THAT PRIMARY OBJECT OF R&D WAS DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS.

10. SUBGROUP SPENT EXTENSIVE PERIOD DISCUSSING PROPOSED

NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION AND SUPPORTING PAPERS. TWO TOPICS NEW NEUTRON SERVICES AND FUSION/FISSION TRANSMITTED TO EXISTING WORKING GROUPS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION. CATEGORIZATION OF SOME PROPOSED ACTIVITIES CHANGED TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT STATE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR COOPERATION.

SPECIAL INTEREST SHOWN IN ADOPTION OF GEOTHERMAL PROGRAM WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES GENERALLY HOLDING VIEW THAT PROGRAM SHOULD NOT LIMIT ITSELF TO SMALL POWER PLANTS AS SUGGESTED IN U.S. PAPER. SPECIAL INTEREST SHOWN IN NON-ELECTRICAL (SPACE HEATING) APPLICATIONS. ITALIAN DELEGATION, WHO HAD SUBMITTED CONSIDERABLY MORE MODEST PROGRAM PROPOSAL, EXPRESSED ITS PLEASURE AT MORE ACTIVE TONE OF U.S. PAPER. U.S. AGREED TO REVISE PAPER TO REFLECT BROADER INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

11. BIOMASS PAPER SUBMITTED BY U.S. HAD BEEN DRAFTED TO MEET NEEDS OF CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP AND WILL BE REVISED TO MEETING BROADER REQUIREMENT OF GB MEETING ON R&D. OTHER AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR POSSIBLE NEW PROGRAMS ARE: HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTORS FOR PROCESS HEAT, REMOTE POWER SYSTEMS, WIND POWER, WAVE POWER AND OCEAN THERMAL GRADIENTS.

12. OVERALL REACTION TO U.S. PAPER ON LINKING WORK OF SUBGROUP TO NEEDS OF DEVELOPING WORLD WAS THAT POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GUIDANCE REQUIRED PRIOR TO R&D GROUP UNDERTAKING SUBSTANTIVE WORK. NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE NOTED POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED AND ASKED WHETHER DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY USG ON PROCEDURE FOR TRANSFERRING ASSISTANCE DEVELOPED BY SUBGROUP TO LDC'S. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE REPLIED THAT MECHANISMS TO BE WORKED OUT BY GB AND THAT IMMEDIATE TASK WAS DESCRIBING SUBGROUP'S CAPABILITIES TO ASSIST. ITALIAN AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED CONCERN AT DUPLICATING EFFORTS UNDERWAY IN BODIES SUCH AS UN AND OECD. UK DELEGATE SAID THAT THERE WAS NEED TO IDENTIFY MOTIVES FOR COOPERATION IN ORDER TO WEIGH BENEFITS OF EFFORT.

CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED PAPER BE MODIFIED TO INCORPORATE COMMENTS.

13. U.S. DELEGATE TABLED PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT IEA R&D FUND. DELEGATIONS WERE ASKED TO SUBMIT COMMENTS AND REACTIONS TO NEXT MEETING SUBGROUP SO THAT DECISION CAN BE MADE ON INCLUSION OF PROPOSAL ON GB MEETING AGENDA.

14. NEXT MEETING R&D SUBGROUP, PARIS, NOVEMBER 4, 1975,
MAJOR ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AT MEETING INCLUDE DISCUSSION
FINAL VERSION CHAIRMAN'S PAPER FOR GB MEETING ON R&D,
DECISION ON LIST OF TOPICS FOR EXPANDED R&D PROGRAM,
AND DEVELOPMENT OF FINAL DRAFT OF SUPPORTING PAPERS ON
THESE PROGRAMS; INGERSOLL

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